

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08
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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR EAID ECEN PGOV PORG LA
SUBJECT: UN EMERGENCY EFFORT FOR DROUGHT RELIEF IN LAOS

SUMMARY: A JOINT UNDP/LAO GOVERNMENT MISSION HAS PRODUCED AN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE EFFECTS OF THE 1977 DROUGHT, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THE LAO HOPE IT CAN BE FINANCED BY DIRECT OR INDIRECT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. THE PROGRAM FORESEES A NEED FOR 367,500 TONS OF RICE TO BRIDGE THE MARCH-NOVEMBER 1978 GAP, FERTILIZERS, INSECTICIDES, FUNGICIDES, IRRIGATION PUMPS, SEEDS FOR RICE AND SUBSTITUTE CROP PLANTINGS AND VETERINARY EQUIPMENT AND VACCINES.

1. ACTING UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE VIENTIANE DISTRIBUTED TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS AUGUST 30 COPIES OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOINT LAO AGRICULTURE MINISTRY/UNDP REPORT ENTITLED "EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF DROUGHT - 1977". REPORT WAS APPROVED AUGUST 26 BY LPDR GOVERNMENT WHICH ASKED UNDP TO PREPARE PROJECTS WHICH COULD BE FINANCED BY FOREIGN AID AND TO CONTACT FOREIGN MISSIONS WHICH WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO THE EXECUTION OF THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM.

THERE FOLLOWS A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT, COMPLETE TEXT OF WHICH BEING POUCHED EA/VLC.

2. LACK OF RAINFALL DURING PLANTING SEASON (MAY TO OCTOBER 1977) THROUGHOUT LAOS AND ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH LED PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE PHOMVICHANE TO LAUNCH AN APPEAL JUNE 27 TO POPULATION TO REMEDY THE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT. MEASURES TAKEN INCLUDED GENERAL MOBILIZATION OF RURAL POPULATION, DISPATCH OF AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TECHNICIANS TO SOUTHERN PROVINCES AND MAKING AVAILABLE ALL PROVINCE CADRES FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DROUGHT.

3. DEGREE OF DROUGHT INDICATED BY FACT THAT VIENTIANE, WHICH NORMALLY HAS 259 MILLIMETERS OF RAIN IN MAY AND 247 MILLIMETERS IN JUNE, RECEIVED RESPECTIVELY ONLY 152 MILLIMETERS AND 168 MILLIMETERS FOR THOSE MONTHS IN 1977. SAVANNAKHET, NORMALLY EXPECTING 191 MILLIMETERS IN MAY AND 307 MILLIMETERS IN JUNE, RECEIVED ONLY 41 MILLIMETERS AND 72 MILLIMETERS RESPECTIVELY. CHAMPASSAK, NORMALLY EXPECTING 119 MILLIMETERS IN MAY AND 322 IN JUNE, RECEIVED RESPECTIVELY ONLY 63 MILLIMETERS AND 91 MILLIMETERS.

4. A JOINT MISSION COMPOSED OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS, UNDP RESREP AND ASSISTANT RESREP AND FAO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOIL SPECIALIST, VISITED KHAMMOUANE AND SAVANNAKHET PROVINCES JULY 20 THROUGH 23 TO DEVELOP THE REPORT.

A. KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE, WITH 250,000 INHABITANTS, NORMALLY GETS 1.6 TONS PER HECTARE OUT OF 35,000 HECTARES PLANTED IN WET RICE AND 1.2 TONS PER HECTARE OUT OF 10,000 HECTARES PLANTED IN UPLAND RICE, FOR THE NORMAL ANNUAL TOTAL OF 68,000 TONS OF PADDY (40,800 TONS OF RICE). WITH AN AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF 180 KILOGRAMS OF RICE PER PERSON PER YEAR TOTALLING 45,000 TONS, THE PROVINCE IS 4,200 TONS SHORT EVEN IN A NORMAL YEAR. THIS YEAR OWING TO LACK OF RAIN THE SHORTAGE WILL AMOUNT TO 45,000 TONS OF PADDY (27,000 TONS OF RICE).

B. SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, WITH 420,900 INHABITANTS, NORMALLY GETS THE SAME RETURN AS KHAMMOUANE OUT OF 101,350 HECTARES PLANTED IN WET RICE AND 29,370 HECTARES PLANTED IN UPLAND RICE, FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 197,400 TONS OF PADDY (118,440 TONS OF RICE). THIS MEANS SAVANNAKHET NORMALLY HAS A SURPLUS OF 43,000 TONS. THE 1977 DROUGHT FOLLOWING ON A LESS SEVERE DROUGHT FOLLOWED BY FLOODS IN 1976 WILL LEAVE SAVANNAKHET 55,320 TONS OF RICE SHORT.

C. MISSION OBSERVED THAT IN TWO DISTRICTS OF KHAMMOUANE AND SAVANNAKHET MOST OF THE RICE FIELDS COULD NOT BE WORKED BECAUSE SOIL WAS TOO DRIED OUT AND THE FEW SEEDLINGS ALREADY PLANTED, SOMETIMES FOR THE SECOND OR THIRD TIME, WERE VERY SPARSE. THERE WAS ALSO EVIDENCE OF INVASIONS OF GRASSHOPPERS AND CATERPILLARS. THE SITUATION IN SAVANNAKHET WAS AGGRAVATED BY THE FACT THAT DROUGHT IS UNUSUAL THERE AND NO PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR IRRIGATION, DOUBLE CROPS OR MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE. SEEDS FOR SUCCESSIVE PLANTINGS AND PESTICIDES, INSECTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES WERE ALL LACKING.

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5. THE SITUATION IN CHAMPASSAK IS SIMILAR TO THAT IN KHAMMOUANE AND SAVANNAKHET. GOVERNMENT SOURCES ESTIMATE THAT IN THE REMAINING TEN PROVINCES WHERE THE DROUGHT HAS BEEN LESS SEVERE THE LOSS IN PADDY WOULD AMOUNT TO FIFTEEN TO TWENTY PERCENT.

6. THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO PLANT SECONDARY CROPS IN FROM FIVE TO FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THE LAND UNDER CULTIVATION STARTING IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1977. THIS WOULD PUT 58,000 HECTARES OUT OF A TOTAL OF 761,000 HECTARES TOTAL RICE FIELDS UNDER CULTIVATION IN SECONDARY CROPS.

ADDITIONALLY, GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO HOPE TO PUT AN ADDITIONAL 4,000 HECTARES UNDER IRRIGATION DURING THE DRY SEASON THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

7.FERTILIZER NEEDS ARE ESTIMATED AT 3,680 TONS OF 46 PERCENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UREA, 6,650 TONS OF BROKEN 28 PERCENT PHOSPHORITE, 10 TONS OF 60 PERCENT POTASSIUM CHLORIDE, 10 TONS OF 48 PERCENT POTASSIUM SULFATE, 10 TONS OF 18 PERCENT SUPER SIMPLE PHOSPHATE, AND 10 TONS OF 42 PERCENT SUPER TRIPLE PHOSPHATE.

8. NEEDS IN MOTOR PUMPS FOR IRRIGATION ARE STATED AT 210 TEN HP PUMPS AND 80 TWENTY HP PUMPS.

9. TYPES OF SEEDS REQUIRED FOR SUBSTITUTE CROPS ARE DESCRIBED AS:

A. CORN: "THAI COMPOSITE NUMBER 1" OR THE LATEST IMPROVED VARIETIES FROM ALL COUNTRIES WHICH EXPORT SEEDS.

B. SOYBEANS: LINCOLN, DAVID, GEDUL, TAINUNG NUMBER 3, TAINUNG NUMBER 7.

C. MUNG BEANS: ALL IMPROVED VARIETIES COMING FROM PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, TAIWAN AND INDIA.

D. PEANUTS: SAME VARIETIES AS MUNG BEANS.

E. RICE: FOLLOWING VARIETIES: IR-22, IR-24, C4-63, IR-34, IR-253 (STICKY RICE), IR-848 (STICKY RICE), IR-889 (STICKY RICE).

10. REQUIREMENTS IN INSECTICIDES, PESTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES ARE LISTED AS:

A. DIELDRIN 60 PERCENT E.C. - 30 TONS

B. SEVIN 85 PERCENT W.P. - 20 TONS

C. BASUDIN 60 PERCENT E.C. - 20 TONS

D. ALDRIN - 16 TONS

E. AZODRIN 60 PERCENT W.S.C.; E.C. - 3 TONS

F. LANNATE-R - 5 TONS

G. MANZATE-D - 3 TONS

H. ZINEB - 3 TONS.

11. SPRAYING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS ARE LISTED AS 30 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"ARIMITSU-MD-35DX" AUTOMATIC SPRAYERS; 20 "KYORITZ D.M.9" AUTOMATIC SPRAYERS; 500 KP-19 HAND SPRAYERS; AND 100 ULTRA LOW VOLUME MICRON ULVA-8 WITH HP 2 BATTERIES MANUAL SPRAYERS.

12. A UNDP/FAO VETERINARY EQUIPMENT AND VACCINE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$53,200 IS ALSO RECOMMENDED TO DEAL WITH LIVESTOCK DISEASES AGGRAVATED BY THE DROUGHT.

13. GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT WITH EXISTING STOCKS AND ANTICIPATED 1977 CROP IT CAN FEED POPULATION THROUGH MARCH 1978. TO BRIDGE THE GAP FROM MARCH 1978 TO THE NEXT HARVEST IN NOVEMBER 1978, IT ESTIMATES IT WILL NEED 367,500 TONS OF RICE (STICKY OR OTHER). HARVESTS OF SECONDARY CROPS WILL OF COURSE SUPPLEMENT WHATEVER RICE IS OBTAINED. VEGETABLE OILS AND SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK ARE ALSO REQUIRED.

14. COMMENT AND REFERENCES SEPT.
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